Amendment

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 8: Partial purification of decapping activity from Hela cytoplasmic extract. ~~Sheet 1: Panel~~ Fig. 8A. Ammonium sulfate fractionation of decapping activity in Hela S100. ~~Sheet 2: Panel~~ Fig. 8B. Chromatographic profile of decapping activity on a Superose-6 column. ~~Panel~~ Fig. 8C. Chromatographic profile of decapping activity on a Heparin-Sepharose column.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The decapping protein (preferably an enzyme) from Hela cells purified using a combination of conventional and affinity chromatography steps. The majority of Hela decapping activity can be precipitated by 20% ammonium sulfate. Molecular exclusion chromatography using a Sepharose-6 column indicates that the decapping activity elutes in the ~50-100 kDa range, consistent with a single (or few) polypeptides being responsible for enzymatic activity. Therefore following decapping activity through purification will likely not require reconstitution of multiple fractions as would be the case with large multi-component complexes (i.e. 20). The bulk of decapping activity elutes between 440 and 550 mM NaCl from a heparin-sepharose column (See Figure 8, Figures 8A, 8B, 8C ~~Panels A, B, C~~).

Amendments to th Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes made to Fig. 1-9.

Please replace the original sheets of drawings with the attached replacement sheets.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets of Drawings.